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Application

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Application Number	10/650851
Filing Date	8/29/2003
First Named Inventor	M. ASANO
Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	unknown
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Please change the Correspondence Address for the above-identified application thereby making possible preservation of the micro-array and its use after a long storage period for quantitative multiparametric analysis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Protein arrays are general tools that permit biological researchers to perform multiparametric assays and to adapt the assays for high throughput. Protein arrays are patterned arrays of known biomolecules on a support, which may undergo a molecular recognition with specific proteins in a complex mixture of proteins present in, for example, a biological fluid or extract. Protein arrays are typically developed to screen for multiple compounds, such as antibodies, ligands, and receptors, which interact with the proteins of the arrays.

[0003] Various methods have been described for the automatic fabrication of micro-arrays. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,807,522 and 6,110,426 disclose methods for fabricating micro-arrays of biological samples. The methods involves dispensing a known volume of a reagent at each array position, and tapping a capillary dispenser on the support under conditions effective to draw a defined volume of liquid onto the support. The apparatus is designed to produce a micro-array of such array positions in an automated fashion.

[0004] U.S. Patent No. 6,101,946 describes a device for fabricating micro-arrays of biochemical substances, which consists of a holder and one or more printing pins. The holder contains apertures with regular spacing that define the location of one or more printing pins during the printing process. The tip of each printing pin contains a sample channel that holds a predetermined volume of biological or chemical sample, and a point that is machined to